DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th January 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Long (Chairman), B Wilson, L Walsh, B Hemmings and D Gibley (Clerk)
In Attendance: D Cllr M Rickman

01/24. Apologies for absence
Cllrs Johnston and Smith
02/24. Welcome.
The Chairman welcomed all to the first meeting of 2024.
03/24. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.
None.
04/25. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of 11th December were approved without amendment.

05/24. Matters Arising
- **Former village shop.** The Clerk confirmed he had written to Mr & Mrs Hankey requesting an update on the former shop. No reply has been received to date.
- **Deepdale signing.** A response is awaited from HDC.
- **Mobile PO.** The Clerk confirmed he is continuing to liaise with the PO concerning possible options for Great Easton.

Afternote. The mobile PO visits Caldecott each Wednesday between 11-12, located in Caldecott village hall car park. This information will be publicised within the village.

06/24. Planning. Cllr Wilson reported on the following current planning applications:
-23/01134/NMA and 23/01532/LBC – 22 Broadgate – **reduce ridge height.** Remains pending. Cllr Wilson noted there are no comments linked to this outstanding application.
-23/01667/FUL – Land off Great Easton Road – revised application to convert existing barns to 3 dwellings. Pending. Cllr Wilson said that the PC comment agreed at the previous meeting has been submitted to HDC, including the request for a pedestrian footpath to be extended along Great Easton road to the proposed entrance. He noted that the Environmental Services have commented on the need for a Risk Based Land Contamination assessment to be completed prior to any approval being granted.
-23/01380/FUL – Land behind 22 Caldecott Road to erect two B&B dwellings. Remains pending. The comment to HDC has been submitted and Cllr Wilson noted that public consultee comments include reference to the proximity of the national gas pipeline but the previous concerns concerning ridge and furrow have been addressed.
-23/01798/FUL – Poplars Farm, Caldecott Road – erect two "eco-pod" timber cabins for short term holiday lets. New. Cllr Wilson noted that the proposed cabins would be behind existing farm buildings and did not see any objection. This was agreed.

07/24. Flood Alleviation
Cllr Hemmings said he had been in contact with Anglian Water again concerning the recent flooding in Brook Lane, which had also affected other areas within the village including houses along Caldecott Road.
Separately Cllr Hemmings confirmed that there is funding allocated towards identified flood alleviation measures on the Nevill Holt Estate and he will continue to liaise with the LLFA.

08/24. Financial Matters.
The RFO reported on the following financial matters:
- **Payments.** The following payments, inclusive of VAT where applicable, were authorised:

-£1,529.29	V Hall re Main stage (NB V hall refund £1,274.40)
-£1,161.20	V hall re roof leak repairs (NB V hall refund £968.00)
-£40.00	T Smith – computer repair
-£1,020.68	LCC re street lighting 2023
-£45.00	Open Spaces society -annual membership fee

-Draft Budget and Precept for 2024/25.
The RFO reported that the draft budget for FY2024/25 has been previously circulated. He proposed that the Precept remains unchanged at £12,849, noting that whilst the draft budget identifies expenditures of £14,311, the final balance at the end of the next FY will be closer to the planned reserve of one year's expenditures.
The budget proposes an increase of the Clerk's wages by £600, with an independent review of the Clerk's wages and hours to be carried out by former Cllr Brittain during the coming FY. This will be a preparatory action for the time the Clerk/RFO stands down.
After discussion, Cllrs unanimously approved the draft budget and agreed that the budget and precept request should be now forwarded to HDC. **Action: Clerk/RFO**

09/24. Arboreal Matters and Conservation.
-Pruning Works to Tree Applications
-23/01551/TCA - 6 Church Bank. Approved.
-23/01626/TCA – 19 Cross Bank. Approved.
It was reported that the two applications above have been approved.

- **Trees for which the PC has responsibility.** It was noted that this remains outstanding.
Action: Cllr Johnston
- West Mercia Rivers Trust. Nothing further to report.

-Great Easton Conservation Area. HDC has requested a meeting in January to discuss the local conservation area. Final details need to be arranged. **Action: Cllr Johnston**

10/24. Community Actions and Police.

- Recreation Field Fence. The removal of the redundant fence around the new equipment remains to be finalised. **Action: Cllr Wilson**

- Recreation Field Committee. The Clerk said he had met with Mr Jefferson and was pleased to be able to report that Mr Jefferson has agreed to remain Chairman for a further year. They had agreed, subject to PC approval, the following key points to be implemented during the coming year:

- The current structure with the Recreation Committee being a sub-committee of the PC, similar to the V Hall committee, should continue.
- The PC representative should be pro-active in raising any longer term concerns with the PC
- The Clerk will clarify the current Charity/Trustee requirements
- Invoices for major items should be made out to the PC for VAT to be reclaimed
- Inspections. The monthly visual equipment checks should be evidenced by an appropriate record. The annual mandatory inspection by a qualified Inspector should be actioned/monitored by the PC until the Recreation Committee can resume responsibility.

There was agreement that implementation of the above points, assisted by advice from Cllr Walsh concerning H&S wording, should help and progress will be monitored during the year.

- Police Liaison. Nothing further to report.

11/24. Website and Communication.

- Website. Cllr Walsh said there is nothing further to report.

-Village Communication Update – Mailchimp. Cllr Walsh reported that the Mailchimp messages have been well received and "take-up" is gradually increasing. It was noted that whilst this is a PC controlled the information is for any relevant village news/notices.

-Great Easton Matters. Cllr Walsh confirmed the deadline for the next issue is 20 January.

12/24. AOB.

-Fly tipping. Cllr Wilson said he had reported two recent fly tipping locations to HDC.

- **HDC Local Plan and PC involvement.** D Cllr Rickman said that HDC has decided to update the current Local plan in response to the need to accommodate some of the Leicester unmet housing provision and the consultation process is publicised on the HDC website. He stressed the importance of Neighbourhood Plans being updated where necessary and the consequent necessity for close liaison with HDC. A series of information meetings has been arranged by HDC and Cllr Wilson and the Clerk agreed to attend the consultation at HDC on Wed 24 January. **Action: Cllr Wilson /Clerk**

-**Village transport service for older people.** Mr Mike Deeley, a village resident who runs a local taxi service, has offered to provide an 8 seater taxi to transport elderly residents to and from a local shopping centre, at no or minimal cost. Details remain to be finalised and publicised. **Action: Clerk**

-13/24. Date of next meeting

- Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

DAC Gibley (Clerk) Cllr P Long (Chairman)